

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A multifunction peripheral configured to perform the steps of:
 - 2 requesting device-related information from a network device over a network;
 - 3 receiving device-related information from the network device over the network;
 - 4 generating a device-related report based on said device-related information; and
 - 5 sending said device-related report to a recipient device.
- 1 2. The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral is
2 configured to perform the step of generating the device-related report based on said device-
3 related information based at least in part on the recipient device.
- 1 3. The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral further
2 comprises a faxing module and the multifunction peripheral is configured to perform the step
3 of sending the device-related report by sending the device-related report via fax using the
4 faxing module.
- 1 4. The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral further
2 comprises a network connection and the multifunction peripheral is configured to perform
3 the step of sending the device-related report by sending the device-related report to an
4 electronic faxing service over the network connection.
- 1 5. The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral further
2 comprises an email module and wherein the multifunction peripheral is configured to

3 perform the step of sending said device-related report to the recipient device by sending said
4 device-related report to the recipient device via email using the email module.

1 6. The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral further
2 comprises a hypertext transfer protocol module and wherein the multifunction peripheral is
3 configured to perform the step of sending said device-related report to the recipient device by
4 sending said device-related report to the recipient device via hypertext transfer protocol using
5 the hypertext transfer protocol module.

1 7. The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral further
2 comprises a secure hypertext transfer protocol module and wherein the multifunction
3 peripheral is configured to perform the step of sending said device-related report to the
4 recipient device by sending said device-related report to the recipient device via secure
5 hypertext transfer protocol using the secure hypertext transfer protocol module.

1 8. The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral further
2 comprises a file transfer protocol module and wherein the multifunction peripheral is
3 configured to perform the step of sending said device-related report to the recipient device by
4 sending said device-related report to the recipient device via file transfer protocol using the
5 file transfer protocol module.

1 9. The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral further
2 comprises an encryption module and wherein multifunction peripheral is further configured
3 to perform the step of encrypting the device-related report.

1 10. The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral further
2 comprises an identification module and wherein multifunction peripheral is further
3 configured to perform the steps of retrieving an identifier for the multifunction peripheral and
4 augmenting the device-related report with the identifier for the multifunction peripheral.

1 11. The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral is
2 configured to perform the step of requesting device-related information from a device at
3 regular intervals.

1 12. The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral is
2 configured to perform the step of requesting device-related information using the simple
3 network management protocol.

1 13. The multifunction peripheral of Claim 12, wherein the multifunction peripheral is
2 configured to perform the step of receiving device-related information from the network
3 device using the simple network management protocol.

1 14. The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the device-related information
2 comprises one or more of device information, device status, meter reading information, and
3 consumables information.

1 15. The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral is
2 further configured to perform the step of accepting user configuration input, and wherein the
3 user configuration input relates to one or more aspects of the collection of device-related
4 information from the network device by the multifunction peripheral.

1 16. The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral is
2 further configured to perform the step of accepting user configuration input via a remote
3 interface, and wherein the user configuration input relates to one or more aspects of the
4 collection of device-related information from the network device by the multifunction
5 peripheral.

1 17. The multifunction peripheral of Claim 15, wherein the multifunction peripheral is
2 further configured to perform the step of requesting device-related information from a device
3 at intervals defined by the user configuration input.

1 18. The multifunction peripheral of Claim 15, wherein the multifunction peripheral is
2 configured to perform the step of generating the device-related report based in part on the
3 user configuration input, and wherein the multifunction peripheral is further configured to
4 perform the step of sending said device-related report to the recipient device at an interval
5 defined by the user configuration input.

1 19. The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral further
2 comprises a means for executing instructions of a java application and the steps are
3 performed by instructions of a particular java application.

1 20. The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the network device is a second
2 multifunction peripheral.

1 21. The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the recipient device is one of the
2 group consisting of a fax machine, a computer, and dedicated hardware executing one of the
3 group consisting of an email client, an http server, and https server, and an ftp server.

1 22. The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral is
2 configured to perform the step of:

3 requesting a second set of device-related information from a second network device
4 over a network, wherein the network device is distinct from the second
5 network device;

6 receiving the second set of device-related information from the second network
7 device over the network;

8 generating the device-related report based on said device-related information and said
9 second set of device-related information; and

10 sending said device-related report to the recipient device.

1 23. The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral is
2 configured to perform the step of:

3 accessing a second set of device-related information from the multifunction
4 peripheral;

5 generating the device-related report based on said device-related information and said
6 second set of device-related information; and

7 sending said device-related report to the recipient device.

1 24. The multifunction peripheral of Claim 1, wherein the multifunction peripheral is
2 configured to receive an acknowledgement over the network from the network device.

- 1 25. A multifunction peripheral configured to perform the steps of:
 - 2 requesting meter data from a second multifunction peripheral over a network;
 - 3 receiving meter data from the second multifunction peripheral over the network;
 - 4 generating a meter report based on said meter data; and
 - 5 sending said meter report to a recipient device.
- 1 26. A multifunction peripheral comprising:
 - 2 means for requesting meter data from a second multifunction peripheral over a network;
 - 3 means for receiving meter data from the second multifunction peripheral over the network;
 - 4 means for generating a meter report based on said meter data; and
 - 5 means for sending said meter report to a recipient device.
- 1 27. A multifunction peripheral comprising:
 - 2 means for requesting device-related information from a network device over a network;
 - 3 means for receiving device-related information from the network device over the network;
 - 4 means for generating a device-related report based on said device-related information;
 - 5 and
 - 6 means for sending said device-related report to a recipient device.